RESOLUTION 2008 - 29

School District Boundary Adjustments

It is the intent of the Montana Association of Counties to support local control of property taxes intended to support county schools and to encourage reasonable flexibility and equal opportunity for all Montana citizens in determining school district boundaries.

WHEREAS, K-12 school consolidations have been entered into across county lines, and;

WHEREAS, K-12 school consolidations have combined vast land masses, across county lines, in order to sustain certain levels of service, and;

WHEREAS, consolidated K-12 school district boards are not always equally representative of the original stakeholders, and;

WHEREAS, school boards have the jurisdiction to close schools and have done so in the economic interest of the school districts, and;

WHEREAS, property tax payers have been denied the opportunity to maintain the school in their own county, and;

WHEREAS, school children now live in and attend schools in their home county while their parent's or guardian's property taxes are required to support schools in a neighboring county, and;

WHEREAS, County property taxes should support that same county's schools if the taxpayers choose to support those schools, especially if their original school has been closed, without voter approval, after a consolidation action, and;

WHEREAS, school consolidations should be allowed to be reconsidered or boundaries adjusted if doing so serves the greater good, and;

WHEREAS, school districts should not be allowed to hold a hostage land mass that is NOT within their county's boundary for the purpose of sustaining a single school that is within their county's boundary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montana Association of Counties supports local control of schools by constituent users and taxpayers and flexibility of school district boundary adjustments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana Association of Counties supports the amendment of MCA 20-6-205 to allow K-12 schools which consolidated prior the 2007 change in Montana Code, to proceed to petition for changes in boundaries under the rules which existed prior to the 2007 change.

SPONSOR:	**Pondera County**
RECOMMENDATION:	**Do Pass**
PRIORITY:	**High**
REFERRED TO:	**Resolutions Committee**
ADOPTED:	**Annual Conference, Hamilton, MT September 24, 2008**